

Table 4. Some Topical Drugs for Atopic Dermatitis

Drug	Vehicle
<b>CALCINEURIN INHIBITORS</b>	
Pimecrolimus 1% <i>Elidel</i> (Novartis)	cream
Tacrolimus 0.03% <i>Protopic</i> (Astellas)	ointment
Tacrolimus 0.1% <i>Protopic</i> (Astellas)	ointment
<b>CORTICOSTEROIDS</b>	
<b>Super-High Potency</b>	
Betamethasone dipropionate augmented 0.05% – generic <i>Diprolene</i> (Schering-Plough)	ointment, lotion, gel ointment, gel
Clobetasol propionate 0.05% generic	cream, ointment, gel, foam, solution
<i>Cormax</i> (Watson)	ointment, solution
<i>Clobex</i> (Galderma)	lotion, spray, shampoo
<i>Olux</i> (Connetics Corp)	foam
<i>Temovate</i> (GSK)	cream, solution, ointment, gel
Fluocinonide 0.1% <i>Vanos</i> (Medicis)	cream
Halobetasol propionate 0.05% generic <i>Ultravate</i> (Ranbaxy)	cream, ointment cream, ointment
<b>High Potency</b>	
Amcinonide 0.1% – generic	ointment
Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% augmented – generic <i>Diprolene AF</i> (Schering-Plough)	cream cream
Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% generic	ointment
Desoximetasone 0.25% generic <i>Topicort</i> (Taro)	cream, gel, ointment cream, gel, ointment
Desoximetasone 0.05% generic <i>Topicort 0.05%</i> (Taro)	gel gel
Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% generic	ointment
Fluocinonide 0.05% generic	gel, ointment, solution cream
Halcinonide 0.1% <i>Halog</i> (Ranbaxy)	cream, ointment
Mometasone furoate 0.1% generic <i>Elocon</i> (Schering-Plough)	ointment ointment
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.5% generic	ointment

Table 4. Some Topical Drugs for Atopic Dermatitis (cont.)

Drug	Vehicle
<b>Medium-High Potency</b>	
Amcinonide 0.1% generic	cream, lotion
Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% generic	cream
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% – generic	ointment
Desoximetasone 0.05% generic	cream
Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% generic	cream
Fluocinonide emollient 0.05% generic	cream
Fluticasone propionate 0.005% generic <i>Cutivate</i> (PharmDerm)	ointment
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% generic	ointment
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.5% generic	cream
<b>Medium Potency</b>	
Betamethasone valerate 0.12% <i>Luxiq</i> (Stiefel Labs)	foam
Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% generic	ointment
Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% generic <i>Westcort</i> (Ranbaxy)	ointment ointment
Mometasone furoate 0.1% generic <i>Elocon</i> (Schering-Plough)	cream, lotion cream, lotion
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% generic	cream
<b>Medium-Low Potency</b>	
Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% generic	lotion
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% generic	cream
Desonide 0.05% generic <i>Desowen</i> (Galderma)	ointment
Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% generic	cream
Flurandrenolide 0.05% <i>Cordran</i> (Aqua) <i>Cordran SP</i> (Aqua)	lotion cream
Fluticasone propionate 0.05% generic <i>Cutivate</i> (PharmaDerm)	cream

**Table 4. Some Topical Drugs for Atopic Dermatitis (cont.)**

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Vehicle</b>
<b>Medium-Low Potency (continued)</b>	
Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% generic <i>Locoid</i> (Triax)	cream, oint, soln cream ointment, soln cream
<i>Locoid Lipocream</i> (Triax)	cream
Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% generic	cream
Prednicarbate 0.1% – generic <i>Dermatop</i> (Dermik)	cream
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.025% generic	ointment
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% generic	lotion
<b>Low Potency</b>	
Alclometasone dipropionate 0.05% generic <i>Aclovate</i> (GSK)	cream, oint cream, oint
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% generic	lotion
Clocortolone 0.1% <i>Cloderm</i> (Valeant)	cream
Desonide 0.05% generic <i>Desonate</i> (Intendis) <i>DesOwen</i> (Galderma) <i>Verdeso</i> (Stiefel Labs)	cream, lotion gel cream, lotion foam
Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% generic	cream, soln
Triamcinolone acetonide 0.025% generic	cream, lotion
<b>Lowest Potency</b> (may be ineffective for some indications)	
Hydrocortisone 0.5% <sup>1</sup> generic	cream, oint, lotion
Hydrocortisone 1.0% <sup>1</sup> generic	cream, oint, lotion
Hydrocortisone 2.5% generic	cream, oint, lotion

1. Available without a prescription.

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME
<b>CLASS 1 - Superpotent</b>	
Clobex Lotion/Spray/ Shampoo, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Cormax Cream/ Solution, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Diprolene Ointment, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Olux E Foam, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Olux Foam, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Temovate Cream/Ointment/ Solution, 0.05%	Clobetasol propionate
Ultravate Cream/ Ointment, 0.05%	Halobetasol propionate
Vanos Cream, 0.1%	Fluocinonide
<b>CLASS 2 - Potent</b>	
Diprolene Cream AF, 0.05%	Betamethasone dipropionate
Elocon Ointment, 0.1%	Mometasone furoate
Florone Ointment, 0.05%	Diflorasone diacetate

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME
<b>CLASS 2 - Potent (cont.)</b>	
Halog Ointment/Cream, 0.1%	Halcinonide
Lidex Cream/Gel/Ointment, 0.05%	Fluocinonide
Psorcon Cream, 0.05%	Diflorasone diacetate
Topicort Cream/Ointment, 0.25%	Desoximetasone
Topicort Gel, 0.05%	Desoximetasone
<b>CLASS 3 - Upper Mid-Strength</b>	
Cutivate Ointment, 0.005%	Fluticasone propionate
Lidex-E Cream, 0.05%	Fluocinonide
Luxiq Foam, 0.12%	Betamethasone valerate
Topicort LP Cream, 0.05%	Desoximetasone
<b>CLASS 4 - Mid-Strength</b>	
Cordran Ointment, 0.05%	Flurandrenolide
Elocon Cream/Lotion, 0.1%	Mometasone furoate
Kenalog Cream/Spray, 0.1%	Triamcinolone acetonide
Synalar Ointment, 0.03%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Westcort Ointment, 0.2%	Hydrocortisone valerate
<b>CLASS 5 - Lower Mid-Strength</b>	
Capex Shampoo, 0.01%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Cordran Cream/Lotion/Tape, 0.05%	Flurandrenolide
Cutivate Cream/Lotion, 0.05%	Fluticasone propionate
DermAtop Cream, 0.1%	Prednicarbate

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME
<b>CLASS 5 - Lower Mid-Strength (cont.)</b>	
DesOwen Lotion, 0.05%	Desonide
Locoid Cream/Lotion/Ointment/Solution, 0.1%	Hydrocortisone
Pandel Cream, 0.1%	Hydrocortisone
Synalar Cream, 0.03/0.01%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Westcort Cream, 0.2%	Hydrocortisone valerate
<b>CLASS 6 - Mild</b>	
Aclovate Cream/Ointment, 0.05%	Alclometasone dipropionate
Derma-Smoother/FS Oil, 0.01%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Desonate Gel, 0.05%	Desonide
Synalar Cream/Solution, 0.01%	Fluocinolone acetonide
Verdeso Foam, 0.05%	Desonide
<b>CLASS 7 - Least Potent</b>	
Cetacort Lotion, 0.5%/1%	Hydrocortisone
Cortaid Cream/Spray/Ointment, 1%	Hydrocortisone
Hytone Cream/Lotion, 1%/2.5%	Hydrocortisone
Micort-HC Cream, 2%/2.5%	Hydrocortisone
Nutracort Lotion, 1%/2.5%	Hydrocortisone
Synacort Cream, 1%/2.5%	Hydrocortisone

## RELATIVE POTENCY OF SELECTED TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROIDS

CLASS*	DRUG
I	Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% ointment Clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream or ointment Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% ointment Halobetasol propionate 0.05% cream or ointment
II	Amcinonide 0.1% ointment Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% cream Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% ointment Desoximetasone 0.25% cream, 0.05% gel, or 0.25% ointment Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% ointment Fluocinonide 0.05% cream, gel, ointment, or solution Halcinonide 0.1% cream Mometasone furoate 0.1% ointment
III	Amcinonide 0.1% cream or lotion Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% cream Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% lotion Betamethasone valerate 0.1% ointment Desoximetasone 0.05% cream Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% cream Fluocinonide 0.05% cream Fluticasone propionate 0.005% ointment Halcinonide 0.1% ointment or solution Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% ointment
IV	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% ointment Flurandrenolide 0.05% ointment Mometasone furoate 0.1% cream or lotion Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% ointment Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% cream
V	Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream Desonide 0.05% ointment Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% cream Flurandrenolide 0.05% cream Fluticasone propionate 0.05% cream Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% cream, ointment, or solution Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% cream or ointment Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% lotion or 0.025% ointment
VI	Alclometasone dipropionate 0.05% cream or ointment Betamethasone valerate 0.1% lotion Desonide 0.05% cream Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% cream or solution Flumethasone pivalate 0.03% cream Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% cream Triamcinolone acetonide 0.025% cream or lotion
VII	Hydrocortisone 1% or 2.5% cream, 1% or 2.5% lotion, or 1% or 2.5% ointment Hydrocortisone acetate (1% or 2.5% cream, 1% or 2.5% lotion, or 1% or 2.5% ointment) and pramoxine hydrochloride 1%

\*Class I is the most potent, and class VII is the least potent. Potency depends on many factors, including the drug's characteristics and concentration and the base in which it is used.

# TOPICAL STEROIDS

## Classification of topical steroid preparations by potency

### LOW POTENCY

<b>Alclometasone dipropionate 0.05%</b> Aclovate (crm, oint)	<b>Hydrocortisone base or acetate 1%</b> Cortisporin* (oint) Hytone (crm, oint) U-cort (crm) Vytone* (crm)	<b>Hydrocortisone base or acetate 2.5%</b> Anusol-HC (crm) Hytone (crm, oint)
<b>Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%</b> Synalar (soln)		<b>Triamcinolone acetonide 0.025%<sup>Δ</sup></b> Kenalog (crm, lotion, oint)
<b>Hydrocortisone base or acetate 0.5%</b> Cortisporin* (crm)		

### INTERMEDIATE POTENCY

<b>Betamethasone valerate 0.12%</b> Luxiq (foam)	<b>Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025%</b> Synalar (crm, oint)	<b>Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1%</b> Locoid (crm, oint, soln) Locoid Lipocream (crm)
<b>Clocortolone pivalate 0.1%</b> Cloderm (crm)	<b>Flurandrenolide 0.025%</b> Cordran-SP (crm) Cordran (oint)	<b>Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2%</b> Westcort (crm, oint)
<b>Desonide 0.05%</b> Desonate (gel) DesOwen (crm, lotion, oint) Verdeso (foam)	<b>Flurandrenolide 0.05%</b> Cordran-SP (crm) Cordran (lotion, oint)	<b>Mometasone furoate 0.1%</b> Elocon (crm, lotion, oint)
<b>Desoximetasone 0.05%</b> Topicort-LP (emollient crm)	<b>Fluticasone propionate 0.005%</b> Cutivate (oint)	<b>Prednicarbate 0.1%</b> Dermatop (emollient crm, oint)
<b>Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%</b> Derma-Smoother/FS (oil) Capex (shampoo)	<b>Fluticasone propionate 0.05%</b> Cutivate (crm, lotion)	<b>Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1%<sup>Δ</sup></b> Kenalog (crm, lotion)
	<b>Hydrocortisone probutate 0.1%</b> Pandel (crm)	<b>Triamcinolone acetonide 0.2%</b> Kenalog (aerosol)

### HIGH POTENCY

<b>Amcinonide 0.1%<sup>◇</sup></b>	<b>Desoximetasone 0.25%</b> Topicort (emollient crm, oint)	<b>Halcinonide 0.1%</b> Halog (crm, oint, soln)
<b>Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented 0.05%</b> Diprolene AF (emollient crm) Diprolene (lotion)	<b>Difforason e diacetate 0.05%</b> Psorcon e (emollient crm, emollient oint)	<b>Triamcinolone acetonide 0.5%<sup>†</sup></b> Kenalog (crm)
<b>Desoximetasone 0.05%</b> Topicort (gel)	<b>Fluocinonide 0.05%</b> Lidex (crm, gel, oint, soln) Lidex-E (emollient crm)	

### SUPER HIGH POTENCY

<b>Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented 0.05%</b> Diprolene (oint, gel)	<b>Clobetasol propionate 0.05%</b> Clobex (lotion, shampoo, spray) Cormax (oint, scalp application) Olux (foam) Olux-E (foam) Temovate (crm, gel, oint, scalp application) Temovate-E (emollient crm)	<b>Fluocinonide 0.1%</b> Vanos (crm)
		<b>Flurandrenolide 4mcg/sq cm</b> Cordran (tape)
		<b>Halobetasol propionate 0.05%</b> Ultravate (crm, oint)

### NOTES

\*Indicates that the product has more than one active ingredient.

<sup>†</sup>Also available as a cream generically.

<sup>Δ</sup>Also available as a cream or ointment generically.

<sup>◇</sup>Also available as a cream, ointment, or lotion generically.

The classification is based on vasoconstrictor assays and clinical studies. Potency varies according to the corticosteroid, its concentration, and the vehicle. In general, corticosteroids in lotions, creams, gels, and ointments are increasingly more potent due to increased absorption from these vehicles.

Absorption is increased by prolonged therapy, large areas of skin damage, and the use of occlusive dressings which may cause an increase in the incidence of side effects.

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